

# SELF-DRIVE VICTORIA

*Melbourne is the gateway to panoramic touring routes.*

Travel across Victoria and experience the region's stunning landscapes, abundant wildlife and renowned food and wine. Be inspired by diverse communities with great passion for arts and culture across all regions. Discover rugged high mountains, lush green rainforests, a breathtaking coastline with famous rock formations and encounter native wildlife.



## GREAT SOUTHERN TOURING ROUTE

Explore vineyards, drive along the spectacular Great Ocean Road, climb a summit in the Grampians National Park and travel back in time at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat.

Plunge into Victoria's famous surf, learn about Western Victoria's maritime history, fascinating Aboriginal history and culture and soak up the riches of the spa country's mineral springs in Daylesford. Keep the binoculars poised for koalas, kangaroos, echidnas and whales along the way.

### Highlights

- › Indulge in the freshest seafood and award-winning cool climate wines on the Bellarine Peninsula.
- › Take in the 12 Apostles or walk a section of the Great Ocean Walk.
- › Ramble among the cone-shaped hills and lake-filled craters of the extinct volcano Tower Hill.
- › Explore one of many trails including the Grampians Peak Trail.
- › Learn about Victoria's gold rush at the award winning Sovereign Hill.



### Journey snapshot:

- › Nearest Major City: Melbourne
- › Duration: 3-5 days
- › Distance: 842 km (523 miles)



### SYDNEY – MELBOURNE COASTAL DRIVE

Take an unforgettable journey along Australia’s stunning south-east coast, from turquoise bays and white sands to rugged cliffs where mighty waves crash. See kangaroos, penguins, wombats and whales in the wild, enjoy watersports and fresh seafood in idyllic beachside towns, then journey inland to explore historic villages, vast forests and beautiful lakes.

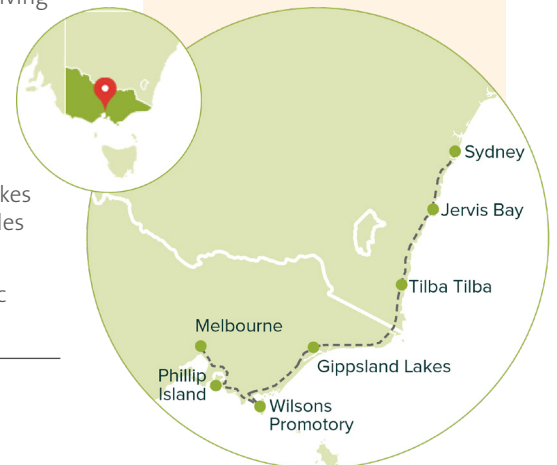
Allow at least five nights on this journey and stop and enjoy the laidback Australian beach lifestyle.

#### Highlights

- › Sample local wine and fresh produce along farmgate trails.
- › See the world’s smallest penguins arriving home at sunset on Phillip Island.
- › Walk amidst the natural beauty and meet the wombats of Wilsons Promontory National Park.
- › Enjoy the freshest seafood at waterfront towns along Gippsland Lakes as well as the pristine New South Wales South Coast.
- › Experience life as it was in the historic villages of Walhalla and Central Tilba.

#### Journey snapshot:

- › Nearest Major City: Melbourne
- › Duration: 6-8 days
- › Distance: 1420 km (882 miles)



### SYDNEY – MELBOURNE HERITAGE DRIVE

Come face to face with the enduring legacy of Australia’s gold rush era. Learn about the resilience of early settlers and discover the timeless spirit of Aboriginal people on this fascinating drive, taking in the mighty Murray River, fabulous wineries, lush national parks and Australia’s capital city, Canberra.

This journey is best experienced with at least four nights to get a sense of the country and the people.

#### Highlights

- › Explore beautiful Victorian-era sandstone buildings and century-old gardens in Bendigo, Castlemaine and Albury-Wodonga.
- › Enjoy a leisurely cruise onboard the Murray River Paddlesteamer or the eco-friendly Kingfisher Cruises.
- › Take part in a Food Fossicking tour in Bendigo or sample local delights at farm gates in the Sun Country.
- › Discover fascinating Aboriginal culture such as the Wagirra Trail along the banks of Murray River in Albury.

#### Journey snapshot:

- › Nearest Major City: Melbourne
- › Duration: 5-7 days
- › Distance: 1120 km (696 miles)



## GO BEYOND MELBOURNE

Travel from Melbourne to the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, Phillip Island and onto the white beaches and wineries of the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsula.

Put together a three to five-day journey winding through lush valleys and pristine coastal landscapes. Sample fine wines and fresh local produce at cellar doors and farm gates, see native wildlife up close, and unwind in beautiful parks and gardens.

### Highlights

- › See Phillip Island's penguins emerge from the sea at Summerland Beach.
- › Visit the Mornington Peninsula's boutique cellar doors.
- › Play at one of the many world class golf courses along the touring route.
- › Indulge in fine wine and fresh seafood on the Bellarine Peninsula.
- › Check out the Yarra Valley's Healesville Sanctuary for native Australian animals, including the platypus.



### Journey snapshot:

- › Nearest Major City: Melbourne
- › Duration: 3-5 days
- › Distance: 301 km (187 miles)

## DRIVING IN VICTORIA

All major car rental operators have offices at Melbourne Airport, in various Melbourne city and suburban locations plus most have regional depots in major towns throughout the state. Many major roads into and out of Melbourne are tollways and most do not accept cash payment. Major car hire companies will usually provide an e-toll solution as part of their rental agreement. Alternatively, short-term e-toll passes can be purchased. A 'Melbourne Pass' is a convenient way to travel on Melbourne toll roads for a period of up to 30 days.

### USEFUL LINKS

[Visit Victoria](#)  
[Great Southern Touring Route](#)  
[Sydney – Melbourne Coastal Drive](#)  
[Sydney – Melbourne Heritage Drive](#)  
[Go Beyond Melbourne](#)  
[Victoria Road Rules](#)  
[Citylink Toll Passes](#)


 USEFUL TIPS

*Prepare for your Australian trip with our practical tips. Learn about our currency, how to call home, keep safe, shop responsibly and travel with a disability. Then you're ready to go.*

### MONEY

Australia's currency is Australian Dollars (AUD) and currency exchange is available at banks, hotels and international airports. The most commonly accepted credit cards are American Express, Bankcard, Diners Club, MasterCard, Visa, JCB and their affiliates.

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Australia has a Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10 per cent. You may be able to claim a refund of the GST paid on goods bought here if you have spent AUD\$300 or more in one store, no more than 30 days before departing Australia. Tourist Refund Scheme facilities are located in the departure area of international terminals. For more detailed information see Australian government information on the Tourist Refund Scheme. (see useful links below)

### SHOPPING

You'll find large department stores, arcades, malls, gift and souvenir shops across Australia. Trading hours vary across the country but shops in tourist and city areas are generally open until 6pm, with the exception of late night shopping on either Thursdays or Fridays in different states. In Australia you are covered by Australia's consumer protection laws which require businesses to treat you fairly.

### TIPPING AND BARGAINING

Hotels and restaurants do not add service charges to your bill. In up market restaurants, it is usual to tip waiters up

to ten per cent of the bill for good service. However, tipping is always your choice. It is not custom to bargain in Australia.

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The emergency number for police, ambulance and or fire brigade is 000.

### SURF AND WATER SAFETY

Australia's popular beaches are usually patrolled by volunteer lifesavers from October to April and red and yellow flags mark the safest area for swimming. For information about marine stingers and crocodile safety read the Queensland Government website. (see useful links below)

### LANGUAGE

Australia's official language is English. However, being a multicultural nation with a significant migrant population, we also enjoy a tremendous diversity of languages and cultures.

### ELECTRICAL POWER POINTS

Our electrical current is 220 – 240 volts, AC 50Hz. The Australian three-pin power outlet is different from some other countries, so you may need an adaptor.

### COMMUNICATION

Australia's country code is 61. Local calls from public pay phones are untimed and charged at AUD\$.050. Mobile, long distance and overseas calls are usually timed. Mobile phone network coverage is available across Australia, however coverage may

be limited in some remote areas. Internet access is widely available at internet cafes, accommodation and libraries.

### POSTAL SERVICES

Post offices are usually open 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday, with some city post offices open on Saturday morning. Travellers can arrange to collect mail at post offices throughout Australia.

### ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL

If you have a disability and are planning to explore Australia, there is a host of services and special deals to meet your needs. Thorough preparation is essential to a successful trip, so speak to your travel agent about your specific requirements. For more information on accessible tourism in Australia go to NICAN or the AustraliaForAll websites.

### USEFUL LINKS

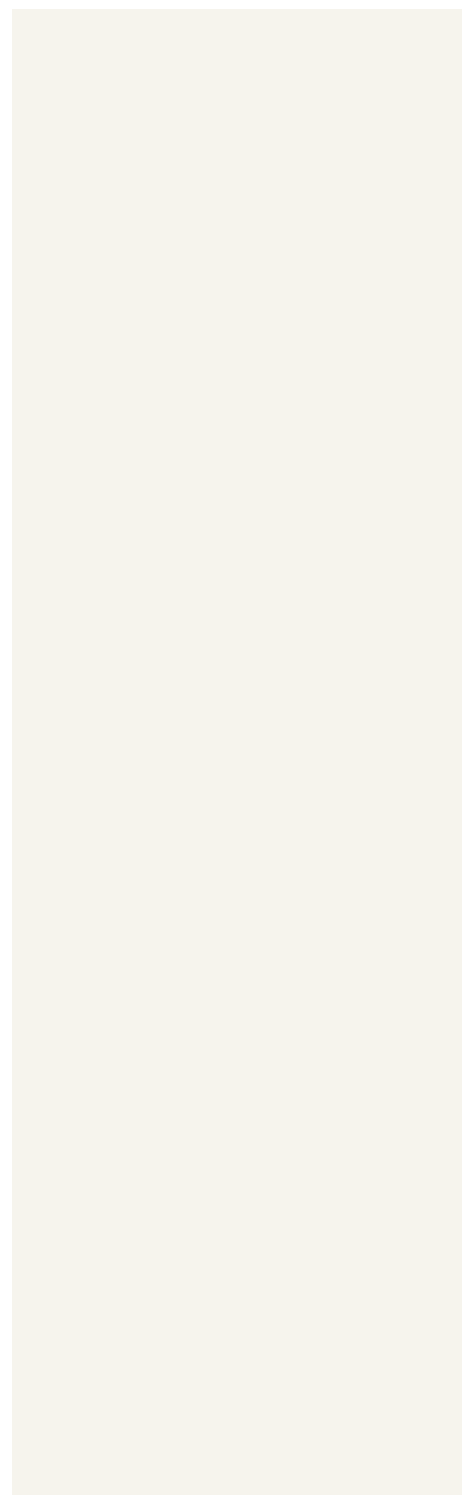
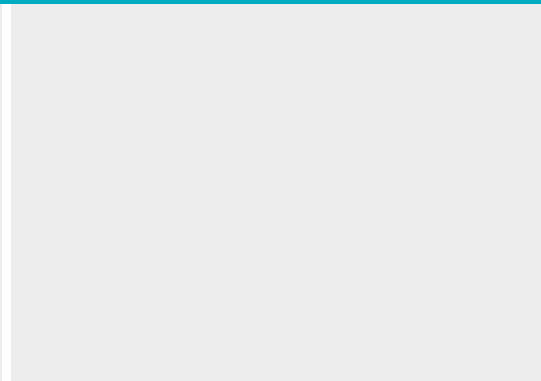
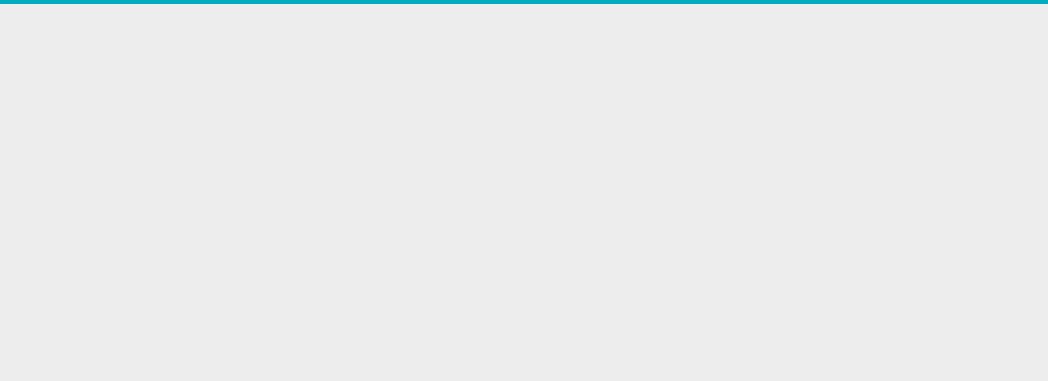
Currency Converter  
[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

Souvenirs  
[www.australia.com/en/articles/shopping/australian-souvenirs.html](http://www.australia.com/en/articles/shopping/australian-souvenirs.html)

Tourist Refund Scheme  
[www.customs.gov.au/site/page4643.asp](http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4643.asp)

Accessible Tourism – NICAN  
[www.nican.com.au/](http://www.nican.com.au/) or [AustraliaForAll http://www.australiaforall.com/](http://www.australiaforall.com/)

Marine Stingers and Crocodile Safety  
[www.qld.gov.au/emergency/safety/dangerous-marine.html](http://www.qld.gov.au/emergency/safety/dangerous-marine.html)





# WEATHER IN AUSTRALIA

*Australia experiences temperate weather for most of the year but the climate can vary due to the size of our continent. The northern states typically experience warm weather much of the time, with the southern states experiencing cooler winters. December to February is summer; March to May is autumn; June to August is winter; and September to November is spring.*

## WEATHER IN SYDNEY

Sydney enjoys a sunny, Mediterranean-style climate all year round with more than 340 sunny days per year. Summers are warm to hot and winters are mild, with rainfall spread fairly evenly throughout the year. In summer (December - February), average maximum temperatures are around 26°C/79°F. It can also be humid at this time with an average humidity of 65 per cent. Average maximum temperatures in the winter months (June-August) are around 16°C/61°F. Sydney's rainfall is highest between March and June.

## WEATHER IN CAIRNS

Like the rest of Queensland, Cairns experiences two distinct weather seasons, the 'wet' season and the 'dry' season. Tropical Cairns has hot and humid summers and mild, dry winters. The average annual rainfall is around 1992 mm, mostly falling between January and

March. The wet season begins building up around December, resulting in humid days and stormy nights. Typical daytime temperatures in Cairns are 23-31°C/73°F-88°F in mid-summer and 18 °C/64°F in mid-winter. Tropical cyclones sometimes occur from November through May.

## WEATHER IN HOBART

Tasmania and Hobart experience four distinct seasons. Its climate is described as mild temperate maritime. The warmest months are December, January, February and March with average temperatures of around 21°C/70°F. With an annual average of 626 millimetres of rainfall, Hobart is Australia's second-driest capital city. Rainfall is spread fairly evenly throughout the year, although the winter months are the wettest. During winter the island feels the southerly winds from the Antarctic and experiences some of Australia's coolest temperatures.

## WEATHER IN CANBERRA

Canberra has a mostly dry climate with warm to hot summers and cool winters. Canberra has around nine hours a day of sunshine in summer, dropping to around five hours in winter. January is the hottest month with average maximum temperatures of 28°C/82 °F. The average annual rainfall is 629 mm with October the wettest month. During winter snow falls in the nearby Australian Alps. Average daily temperatures in the city in winter are around 11°C/52°F; dropping below 0°C/32°F at night.

## WEATHER IN ALICE SPRINGS

The climate of Alice Springs in Australia's Red Centre is one of extremes. Unlike the Top End of the Northern Territory which has a tropical climate, the Red Centre has a semi-arid climate. In summer (December-February), average temperatures range between 20°C/68°F and 35°C/95°F. In winter (June-August), the average temperature range is 3°C/37°F -20°C/68°F. Spring and autumn have warm days and cool evenings. Rainfall varies dramatically from year to year, but the annual average is around 286mm.



### WEATHER IN MELBOURNE

Victoria's climate is marked by a range of different climate zones, from the hot, dry regions of the northwest to the alpine snowfields in the northeast. Melbourne has a reputation for its changeable weather, often referred to as having 'four seasons in one day'. Generally the city enjoys a temperate climate with warm to hot summers; mild, temperate springs and autumns; and cool winters. Temperatures average 25°C/77°F in summer and 14°C/57°F in winter. Rainfall is highest from May to October.

### WEATHER IN BRISBANE

Brisbane has a subtropical climate with warm or hot weather for most of the year. In summer (December - February), maximum temperatures average around 30°C/86°F. The city experiences its highest rainfall in summer which sometimes brings thunderstorms and occasional floods. This is also the most humid time of the year in Brisbane. Winter time is generally dry and mild. Most winter days are sunny with average temperatures of around 17°C/63°F. The average monthly rainfall over the year is around 96 mm.

### WEATHER IN BROOME

Broome has a tropical climate with hot and humid summers and warm winters. From October to April temperatures average around 33°C/91°F. Winters (June-August) are mild, with average daily July temperatures around 27°C/81°F. Overnight temperatures rarely fall below 5°C/41°F at any time of year. The average annual rainfall is 532 mm but sometimes no rain falls for months. January to March is the wettest time of year. Tropical cyclones can occur from November to April, most commonly in January and February.

### WEATHER IN ADELAIDE

South Australia's climate varies from hot and dry in the interior, to mild and wet in the south and coastal regions. Adelaide generally has mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. It is the driest of all the Australian capital cities. The average annual rainfall is 553 mm. June is the wettest month, averaging around 80 mm. The average rainfall in summer is around 20 mm. The average maximum temperature is 29°C/84°F in summer and 15-16°C/59°F-61°F in winter.

### WEATHER IN PERTH

Western Australia has a number of climate zones due to its enormous size. The southwest has mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Perth has more sunny days annually than any other Australian capital city. Rainfall is highest between May and September. February is usually the hottest month of the year, with temperatures averaging 31°C/88°F. A sea breeze called 'The Fremantle Doctor' provides some relief from the heat. Winters are relatively cool and wet with daytime temperatures ranging from 18-21°C/64°F-70°F